



**Senate Bills 753 – Oppose**  
**Senate Health Policy Committee**  
**April 12, 2016**

The ACLU of Michigan supports advancing medicine to underserved areas of the state through the use of telemedicine. However, we oppose Senate Bill 753 on that grounds that it excludes abortion care from those advances, with no medical basis for doing so.

Sec. 16285 (C) is intended to further restrict a woman's access to abortion. Medical experts like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists<sup>1</sup> oppose this type of restriction because it's meant to block access to care with no medical basis.

In our state, more than a quarter of our counties don't have a single practicing OB/GYN physician. Rural women are more likely to be farther from health services and may have to travel substantial distances to access care. For those women, this legislation cuts off a safe option for early, medical abortion.

It is policies like these, banning reasonable and responsible medical care based on political ideology and not medical standards that push women into riskier and riskier unsafe procedures.

We can all agree that no woman wants to face an abortion, but legislatures across the country, including here in Michigan, have made it more and more difficult for women to access and afford birth control and reproductive health care. If lawmakers truly want to help reduce abortions, you will put aside politics and commit to sound policy that increases access for women and families to receive quality reproductive health services, especially for poor women. This is the only way that we can reduce unintended pregnancies among women in Michigan and reduce the need for abortions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Increasing-Access-to-Abortion>